

Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2)

Categorisation of Villages: Background Paper

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Background Paper is to set out the Councils approach to categorising villages in the SSP2 and to provide a justification for the distribution of housing in the rural area. The paper begins by discussing the policy context, it then sets out how villages have been categorised in the SSP2 and finally sets out how housing proposals have been distributed in the rural area.

2.0 Policy Context

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

2.1 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) sets out the Spatial Strategy for development in North Northamptonshire and sets out the role of settlements within North Northamptonshire.

2.2 Table 1 of the JCS sets out the detailed roles of each settlement. In the rural area there are two relevant categories, Villages and Open Countryside. Figure 1 below provides a copy of these sections of table 1.

TABLE 1: SPATIAL ROLES		
CATEGORY	ROLES INCLUDE	IMPLICATIONS
<p>Villages</p> <p>All villages other than settlements of a dispersed form, which may be designated as open countryside, outside the formal settlement hierarchy</p>	<p>To provide community infrastructure and services to meet day to day needs of residents and businesses in the rural areas. Focal points for development to meet locally identified needs, unless those needs can be met more sustainably at a nearby larger settlement</p>	<p>The scale of development in an individual village, other than small scale infill opportunities, will be led by locally identified employment, housing, infrastructure and service requirements and dependent upon the form, character and setting of the village and its proximity to larger settlements.</p> <p>The plan sets out housing requirements for the largest villages of Earls Barton, Finedon, Irchester and Wollaston, where the scale of development arising from local needs will be of strategic significance. Part 2 Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans should identify the best locations for accommodating these development needs and may test higher levels of growth.</p> <p>Development within villages that have only a limited range of services and facilities is likely to be limited to small scale infill development and 'rural exceptions' affordable housing schemes, unless Local or Neighbourhood Plans identify growth as a means of sustaining or improving the range of services in the village.</p> <p>Part 2 Local Plans may identify villages that have a sensitive character or conservation interest, in which new development will be strictly managed. Opportunities for development to meet specific local needs may be identified through Neighbourhood Plans or the Community Right to Build.</p> <p>Strong development management will be required to ensure that development pressures are not diverted to villages if development at the Growth Towns and Market Towns is slower than planned.</p>
<p>Open Countryside</p>	<p>A living, working countryside providing the green setting for the network of settlements and supporting the area's self-reliance and resilience through food production; leisure and tourism; biodiversity resources; renewable energy; flood risk management and carbon capture.</p>	<p>Development will be carefully managed to safeguard the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and to maintain distinctive and separate settlements by ensuring that development does not result in coalescence.</p> <p>Some small rural settlements with a dispersed built form may be designated as open countryside, where development will be limited.</p> <p>Support for agricultural and forestry enterprises and other appropriate rural businesses. Opportunities for diversification including the re-use of buildings and new tourism, recreation and renewable energy based activities. Opportunities will be taken to enhance the Green Infrastructure that provides an essential biodiversity and recreational resource and delivers other key ecosystem services such as flood risk management and carbon capture.</p>

Figure 1 Spatial Roles (Source JCS)

- 2.3 The village category includes all villages other than settlements of a dispersed form, which may be designated as open countryside, outside the formal settlement hierarchy. Within the village category Table 1 of the JCS also states that Part 2 Local Plans may identify villages that have a sensitive character or conservation interest, in which new development will be strictly managed.
- 2.4 The JCS therefore provides the opportunity for villages to be split into three categories, those which fall within the general village category, those of a sensitive character or conservation interest and settlements of a dispersed form.

Saved Local Plan Policies

- 2.5 Saved Local Plan Policies RA3 (Restricted Infill Villages) and RA4 (Restraint and Scattered Villages) currently categorise villages in the Borough. Most villages are categorised as Restricted Infill Villages, 5 villages are identified as restraint villages and four are identified as scattered villages. Table 1 below shows the categorisation of villages in the saved Local Plan.

Table 1 - Saved Local Plan Categorisation

Restricted Infill Village	Restraint Village	Scattered Settlement
Ashley	Grafton Underwood	Brampton Ash
Braybrooke	Little Oakley	Dingley
Broughton	Newton	Orton
Cranford St. Andrew	Warkton	Pipewell
Cranford St. John	Weekley	
Geddington		
Great Cransley		
Harrington		
Loddington		
Pytchley		
Rushton		
Stoke Albany		
Sutton Bassett		
Thorpe Malsor		
Weston by Welland		
Wilbarston		

3.0 Categorisation of Villages in the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2)

- 3.1 Categorisation of villages in the SSP2 needs to conform to the roles of settlements identified in the JCS. This allows for the identification of a separate category for villages which have a sensitive character or conservation interest and allows for the identification of settlements of a dispersed form. To enable settlements within the Borough to be separated, three categories have been identified:
- Category A Villages – All villages except those which fall within categories B or C.
 - Category B Villages – Villages which have a sensitive character or conservation interest.
 - Category C Villages – Settlements of a dispersed form.

3.2 The categorisation of villages in the saved Local Plan policies provides a starting point for determining which villages should be located in which category, however the table below provides an assessment of each village and concludes on the most appropriate category for it to be located.

Table 2- Categorisation of Villages

Name of settlement	Saved Local Plan category	Comments	SSP2 Category
Ashley	Restricted Infill	Ashley is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Brampton Ash	Scattered	Brampton Ash is dispersed in character, due to the low density, small number of dwellings and scattered nature it would be difficult to define an appropriate boundary for the settlement. The most appropriate category for the settlement is Category C.	C
Braybrooke	Restricted Infill	Braybrooke is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Broughton	Restricted Infill	Broughton is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Cranford	Restricted Infill	Cranford is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Dingley	Scattered	Dingley is dispersed in character and form. The settlement is low density and due to the scattered nature it would be difficult to define an appropriate boundary for the settlement. The most appropriate category for the settlement is Category C.	C
Geddington	Restricted Infill	Geddington is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Glendon	Open countryside	Glendon consists of a small number of dwellings which are dispersed in form. Due to the low density, low number of dwellings and scattered	C

		nature it would be difficult to define an appropriate boundary for the settlement. The most appropriate category for the settlement is Category C.	
Grafton Underwood	Restraint	Grafton Underwood is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. Grafton Underwood is an Estate Village associated with Boughton Estate. It is therefore of particular conservation interest and has a particular character and charm. The most appropriate category for this settlement is category B.	B
Great Cransley	Restricted Infill	Great Cransley is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Harrington	Restricted Infill	Harrington is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Little Oakley	Restraint	Little Oakley is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village is an Estate Village associated with Boughton Estate. It is therefore of particular conservation interest and has a particular character and charm. The most appropriate category for this settlement is category B.	B
Loddington	Restricted Infill	Loddington is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Mawsley	New village	Mawsley is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Newton	Restraint	Newton is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village is an Estate Village associated with Boughton Estate. It is therefore of particular conservation interest and has a particular character and charm. The most appropriate category for this settlement is category B.	B
Orton	Scattered	Orton consists of a small number of dwellings at a low density. Due to the low density, small number of dwellings and scattered nature of the settlement it would be difficult to define an appropriate boundary for the settlement. The most appropriate	C

		category for the settlement is Category C.	
Pipewell	Scattered	Pipewell is dispersed in character, due to the low density, small number of dwellings and scattered nature it would be difficult to define an appropriate boundary for the settlement. The most appropriate category for the settlement is Category C.	C
Pytchley	Restricted Infill	Pytchley is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Rushton	Restricted Infill	Rushton is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Stoke Albany	Restricted Infill	Stoke Albany is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Sutton Bassett	Restricted Infill	Sutton Bassett is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Thorpe Malsor	Restricted Infill	Thorpe Malsor is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Thorpe Underwood	Open countryside	Thorpe Underwood is dispersed in character, with a small number of dwellings. Due to the low density, small number of dwellings and scattered nature it would be difficult to define an appropriate boundary for the settlement. The most appropriate category for the settlement is Category C.	C
Warkton	Restraint	Warkton is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village is an Estate Village associated with Boughton Estate. It is therefore of particular conservation interest and has a particular character and charm. The most appropriate category for this settlement is category B.	B
Weekley	Restraint	Weekley is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village is an Estate Village associated with Boughton Estate. It is therefore of particular conservation interest and has a particular	B

		character and charm. The most appropriate category for this settlement is category B.	
Weston by Welland	Restricted Infill	Weston by Welland is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A
Wilbarston	Restricted Infill	Wilbarston is of a scale and form which mean the settlement can be defined by an appropriate boundary. The village does not meet the criteria for designation as a Category B village and would be most appropriately identified as a Category A village.	A

3.3 The village categorisations set out in the table above will be included in the SSP2.

4.0 Distribution of rural housing in the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2)

4.1 The distribution of housing in the rural area has been informed by detailed site assessments and through a Rural Masterplanning approach.

4.2 Detail of the site assessments is provided in the following background papers:

- Housing Allocations Background Paper (February 2012)
- Housing Allocations – Assessment of Additional Sites and Update (September 2013)
- Housing Allocations Background Paper (May 2018)

4.3 Each site was assessed against a standard set of sustainability appraisal criteria; this enabled the sites to be considered against each other to ensure the most sustainable options were chosen.

4.4 In addition to this, a Rural Masterplanning project was undertaken, the findings of this are set out in the Kettering Borough Rural Masterplanning Report (February 2012). The Rural Masterplanning project involved a detailed analysis of the rural area. This project took a holistic look at each of the Borough's village's needs, aspirations, opportunities for improvement and their capacity for future development and sought to ensure that any new development in villages respects and enhances the qualities of that village which makes it special.

4.5 The rural masterplanning project explored and drew out relevant issues to inform a clearer spatial understanding of rural areas and the roles, functions, relationships, needs, aspirations, qualities of the built and natural environment and special character of settlements in order to develop a strategy for ensuring their sustainable future. A key focus of the work was on identifying qualities of the built and natural environment and on capturing the sense of place to ensure locally distinctive character is identified, preserved and enhanced.

4.6 The outputs from this project have informed options and policy development in the SSP2 along with the detailed site assessments. The level of growth proposed in each

settlement is considered to be proportionate to the size of the settlement and the range of services and facilities located in these villages.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 This paper has set out the approach which has been taken to the categorisation of villages in the SSP2 and to the distribution of housing in the rural area. The village categorisations as set out will be included in the SSP2.